

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ACDA-10 /094 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DCJOHNSON:CLD  
APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS

-----112058 082121Z /46

O P 082058Z JUL 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL BELIZE NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, UK, GT, BH

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS ON BELIZE

1. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS AROSE AT DEPARTMENT'S  
JULY 8 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. JOHN, DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON BELIZE TODAY?

A. WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW, ROY?

Q. WELL, WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE COMMUNIQUE? ARE  
YOU ENCOURAGED?

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A. WELL, WE OBVIOUSLY ARE PLEASED THAT THE PARTIES, THAT  
IS, THE BRITISH AND THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA HAVE  
AGREED TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT MR. ROWLANDS,  
WHO, AS YOU KNOW, IS HEAD OF THE BRITISH FOREIGN AND  
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE, WILL VISIT GUATEMALA.

I DON'T BELIEVE HE IS THE HEAD. THAT IS WRONG. HE IS, I

THINK, A MINISTER OF STATE.

HE WILL VISIT GUATEMALA.

E THINK THAT ALL OF THIS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO AN EASING OF TENSION AND ALLOW THE PARTIES TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THEIR DIFFERENCES.

Q. YESTERDAY HODDING CARTER DESCRIBED THE SITUATION AROUND BELIZE AS TENSE. HOW DO YOU ASSESS IT TODAY?

A. WE THINK THE TALKS HAVE SUBSTANTIALLY EASED THE TENSION AND IN THAT RESPECT SOME REPORTS YESTERDAY THAT GUATEMALA WAS SUBSTANTIALLY REINFORCING ITS SIDE OF THE BORDER WERE EXAGGERATED.

Q. WHAT DID GUATEMALA DO?

A. WELL, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO WHAT THEY DID, BUT OUR INFORMATION IS THAT, AS I SAY, REPORTS THAT THEY WERE SUBSTANTIALLY REINFORCING THEIR SIDE WERE OVERDRAWN.

Q. JOHN, WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE NEW MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER THIS AFTERNOON?

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A. I THINK IT IS THE SAME SUBJECT, FRANCOIS. HE SAW HIM YESTERDAY AND HE IS SEEING HIM AGAIN OR HAS SEEN HIM AGAIN TODAY.

Q. IF EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT, WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING?

A. WELL, I THINK IT SHOULD BE PRETTY OBVIOUS. IT IS IN MY ESTIMATION A FOLLOW-UP MEETING TO GO OVER WHAT HAS DEVELOPED.

I WOULDN'T READ INTO IT THAT THERE IS ANY FURTHER PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED, IMMEDIATE PROBLEM TO BE RESOLVED.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN A COMPLAINT BECAUSE OF THE USE BY THE BRITISH OF THE U.S. BASE IN BERMUDA?

A. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY COMPLAINT BY GUATEMALA, NO.

Q. IS THE -- ARE YOU CONTINUING ON THIS?

Q. YES.

Q. I AM SORRY.

Q. YOU SAY THAT REPORTS THAT THEY WERE SUBSTANTIALLY REINFORCED WERE OVERDRAWN.

Q. WERE THE REINFORCEMENTS, TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE BY GUATEMALA OF ITS FORCES ON THE BELIZE BORDER?

A. I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION.

Q. WELL, YOU SAY THAT IT IS NOT CORRECT TO SAY THAT THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL REINFORCEMENTS, BUT WERE THERE REINFORCEMENTS BY GUATEMALA? DID GUATEMALA UNDERTAKE ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION?

THERE HAS BEEN A NEWS BLACKOUT SUPPOSEDLY ON MILITARY PREPARATIONS BY GUATEMALA AND ANY LIGHT YOU CAN SHED ON THEIR ACTIVITIES IS VALUABLE.

A. I CAN'T, ROY. JUST THAT OUR INFORMATION, WHICH IS I THINK VERY GOOD, IS THAT IT CONFLICTS WITH REPORTS OF SUBSTANTIAL REINFORCEMENTS BY GUATEMALA.

ARE THERE ANY MORE QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT?  
(NO RESPONSE.)

A. I THINK, MARVIN, YOU WERE NEXT. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INDEPENDENCE, BRIEFING MATERIALS, COMMUNIQUEs, NEGOTIATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** QUESTIONS ON BELIZE  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PDEV, UK, GT, BH, US  
**To:** GUATEMALA BELIZE  
**Type:** TE  
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